

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178687

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, UNGA, AS, KS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN PERMREP TO UN CALLS ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY BUFFUM

SUMMARY:

1. AUSTRALIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN,
AMBASSADOR HARRY, CALLED ON IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM
JULY 25 TO DISCUSS UN-RELATED MATTERS INCLUDING ARAB MOVES
AGAINST ISRAEL, THE KOREA QUESTION AND VIETNAMS' APPLICA-
TIONS FOR UN MEMBERSHIP. AUSTRALIA'S PARTICIPATION IN
THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN LIMA NEXT MONTH ALSO WAS
MENTIONED DURING THE HOUR-LONG MEETING. HARRY WAS
ACCOMPANIED BY AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US SHAW.
END OF SUMMARY.

2. ON ISRAEL, HARRY WONDERED WHETHER THE ISLAMIC PRO-
CLAMATION TO SEEK ISRAEL'S EXPULSION FROM THE UN WAS A
SERIOUS MOVE OR JUST A FORM OF PRESSURE TO FORCE ISRAEL
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TO NEGOTIATE. HE SAID THAT AUSTRALIA OPPOSES ISRAEL'S

EXPULSION AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON HER BEHALF ALTHOUGH SOME COUNTRIES FEAR THAT TOO ACTIVE A CAMPAIGN MIGHT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. BUFFUM ASSERTED THAT THE MOVES UNDERWAY COULD LEAD TO CATAclysmic CONSEQUENCES. ONE CAN NEVER BE SURE OF ARAB ACTIONS, HE SAID. SHOULD THE ISSUE BE

RAISED AT LIMA IN LATE AUGUST, IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT IT WILL NOT BE RAISED IN THE UNGA. BUFFUM ADDED THAT, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THE SYRIANS INTEND TO PRESS THE ISSUE AT LIMA BUT OUR BEST HOPE NOW IS THAT IT WILL NOT ARISE.

3. ON KOREA, HARRY SAID AUSTRALIA WOULD NOT CO-SPONSOR THE RESOLUTION AND WOULD STUDY IT CAREFULLY BEFORE OFFERING SUPPORT BECAUSE CANBERRA WISHED TO KEEP ITS "HANDS FREE". HE COMMENTED THAT WHEN FONMIN WILLESEE VISITED PYONGYANG AND SEOUL HE TRIED TO STIMULATE A RESUMPTION OF NORTH-SOUTH TALKS. THE NORTH KOREANS SAID THEY WERE NOT PREPARED FOR TALKS NOW. HARRY, RETURNING TO THE RESOLUTION, ASKED HOW THE ARMISTICE COULD BE MAINTAINED IF THE UNC IS TERMINATED. ALSO WOULD IT BE NECESSARY, HE WONDERED, FOR THE CHINESE AND THE US TO BE AT THE ARMISTICE MEETINGS? BUFFUM OBSERVED GENERALLY THAT THERE HAS BEEN FAVORABLE REACTION TO THE RESOLUTION SINCE IT FOCUSES ON THE NEED FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA. PRECISE DETAILS ON WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON JANUARY 1, 1976 REGARDING THE UNC MECHANISM FOR MAINTAINING THE ARMISTICE ARE UNCLEAR AT THIS TIME, BUFFUM SAID, BUT FOR EXAMPLE WE HAVE PROPOSED THAT ROK AND US MILITARY OFFICERS SUCCEED THE UNC COMMANDER IN HIS RESPONSIBILITIES.

4. ON THE VIETNAM APPLICATIONS TO THE UN, HARRY, WHO SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO SAIGON DURING 1968-70, STATED FIRMLY THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD OF COURSE SUPPORT THEM SAYING IT WAS A GOOD THING ON PRACTICAL GROUNDS TO HAVE THEM IN THE UN TO TALK TO AND OBSERVED HE HOPED THE US SHARED THIS VIEW. BUFFUM REPLIED THAT WE WERE STILL CONSIDERING A FINAL DECISION BUT NOTED EMPHATICALLY THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF ROK ENTRY IN THIS CONTEXT AND THEN REVIEWED THE BASIC ARGUMENTS FOR RELATING

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THE TWO ISSUES. HARRY LISTENED CLOSELY AND THEN SAID THESE ARGUMENTS DID NOT APPEAL TO AUSTRALIA, STATED THAT THERE WAS NO WAY OF USING VIETNAM'S ENTRY AS LEVERAGE FOR ROK ENTRY AND COMMENTED THAT THE US WOULD NOT SUCCEED IN ITS VIEW. BUFFUM OBSERVED THAT THE ALTERNATIVE THEN WOULD BE TO YIELD TO THE TOTALITY OF THE COMMUNISTS' POSITIONS ON VIETNAM AND KOREA, THUS PRESENTING A DIFFICULT SITUATION FOR US POLICY MAKERS. MOREOVER, AS FOR BEING

ABLE TO TALK TO THE VIETNAMESE, SUFFUM SAID THE PRG AND DRV OBSERVER MISSIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED VISAS AND WOULD BE IN NEW YORK SOON. HE CONCLUDED SAYING IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THE US POSITION ON THE VIETNAM APPLICATIONS WILL BE DEPENDENT ON ROK ENTRY. HARRY THANKED SUFFUM FOR HIS PRESENTATION AND REITERATED THAT AUSTRALIA'S POSITION WAS BASED ON PRACTICAL NOT JURIDICAL GROUNDS.

5. ON THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH, HARRY SAID THAT AUSTRALIA HAD RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO ATTEND AS "GUESTS", NOT AS "MEMBERS" OR AS "OBSERVERS" EXPLAINING THAT OBSERVERS WERE CANDIDATE MEMBERS. GUESTS WERE NOT IN THAT CATEGORY. HE SAID THAT AUSTRIA, SWEDEN AND FINLAND ALSO MIGHT BE GOING AS GUESTS. (FYI: USUN'S 3423 REPORTED THAT AUSTRALIA ITSELF MADE STRONG APPEALS IN NEW YORK TO RECEIVE AN INVITATION END FYI). FONMIN WILLESEE WILL HEAD THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION. WILL LATER ATTEND THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION ("HE IS AN ECONOMIST") AND THE GA, AND THEN TRAVEL AROUND THE US BEFORE RETURNING TO CANBERRA. INGERSOLL

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